

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214923

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIAN, NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. RICHARD HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/ANZ - FRANK C. BENNETT, JR.

1. AVIATION TALKS CANCELLED. PLANS TO HOLD AVIATION
TALKS WITH THE AUSTRALIANS IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING
AUGUST 28 WERE SCUTTLED WHEN CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, WHOSE
ENTRY ONTO THE US-AUSTRALIA ROUTE THE GOA HAS BEEN QUIETLY
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OPPOSING, INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
PREPARED TO INAUGURATE FLIGHTS UNTIL AT LEAST NEXT MAY.
AN INTERAGENCY MEETING CHAIRED BY UNDER SECRETARY COOPER
DECIDED THAT AUGUST WOULD HARDLY BE AN OPTIMAL TIME TO
PRESSURE THE AUSTRALIANS ON SOMETHING PLANNED FOR SO FAR
IN THE FUTURE. WE EXPECT THAT THE TALKS WILL BE RESCHEDULED
FOR SOMETIME AROUND THE TURN OF THE YEAR. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. THE DILLINGHAM CLAIM. FOLLOWING THE GOA'S NOTIFICATION LAST WEEK THAT DILLINGHAM HAD EITHER TO ACCEPT ITS OFFER OF A DOLLARS 4 MILLION SETTLEMENT OR RECEIVE NOTHING, DILLINGHAM'S WASHINGTON LAWYERS HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE THE ROUNDS HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND PRESUMABLY

ELSEWHERE TO TRY TO LINE UP SUPPORT FOR A MUCH MORE ACTIVE USG EFFORT TO FORCE THE GOA TO GO TO ARBITRATION. YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR MUCH MORE ABOUT THE CASE IN COMING WEEKS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. CALL BY NZ DEFENSE SECRETARY. MR. JOHN ROBERTSON, SECRETARY OF THE NZ DEFENSE MINISTRY, CALLED TODAY WITH AMBASSADOR NORRISH TO GIVE US THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT GNZ DEFENSE POLICY REVIEW AND TO MAKE SEVERAL OTHER POINTS. HE IS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE OUTGOING DEFENSE MINISTER MCCREADY AND BOTH HAVE MADE CALLS AT DOD AND JCS. THE MAIN POINT HE MADE WAS THAT THE GNZ HAD GONE THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF MANY OPTIONS, INCLUDING NEUTRALITY, IN TRYING TO BALANCE ITS CONTRACTING FINANCIAL RESOURCES AGAINST ITS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND HAS OPTED TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT ANZUS TIE-UP WITH EMPHASIS ON CLOSER LIAISON WITH AUSTRALIA TO ENHANCE THEIR COMBINED EFFECTIVENESS. THEY ALSO WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A PART WITH AUSTRALIA IN THE SECURITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE ISLAND STATES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PACIFIC, AND ASEAN. A MEMO OF HARLAN LEE'S AND MY CONVERSATION WITH ROBERTSON WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. ANZUS OFFICIAL'S MEETING. THE SUGGESTED CONVERSION OF THE UNGA BILATERALS WITH THE SECRETARY INTO TRILATERAL ANZUS CONSULTATIONS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN THE CARDS SINCE PRIME MINISTER MULDOON REPORTEDLY WILL MAKE A BRIEF APPEARANCE AT THE UNGA AND FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS WILL NOT ACCOMPANY. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TELLS US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THEY STILL DO NOT HAVE WORD WHEN, OR IF, FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK WILL BE IN NEW YORK. WE HAVE HEARD THAT PRIME MINISTER FRASER WILL NOT ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA IN OCTOBER, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF HIS OWN STRICTURES ON GOA TRAVEL AND OTHER PROBLEMS. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING A MEETING AT A LOWER LEVEL. (CONFIDENTIAL)
CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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